PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Contact Person

March 15, 2006

Paul W. Connell Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced the unsealing of an indictment returned on March 8, 2006 by a federal grand jury sitting in Madison, charging James T. Maher, DOB 7/17/1979, of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, with one count of distributing methamphetamine on April 14, 2005. Maher faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a \$1,000,000 fine, and at least three years supervised release, if convicted.

The charges against Maher are the result of an investigation conducted by the Vernon County Sheriff's Department and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigations - Narcotics Bureau. Prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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